

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Bennett, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Parker – 6. Absent: - Carter - 1. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Agenda of the January 20, 2009, Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointments to the Capital Improvement Program Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-038)

WHEREAS, In accordance with the County's Open Appointment Process, press releases were distributed seeking applicants for positions on the Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee (CIPAC). Vacancies exist on this district-specific Committee in all seven Districts; and

WHEREAS, Applications have been received from citizens representing all Commissioner Districts except District 6; and

WHEREAS, An additional press release will be distributed seeking applications for the remaining vacancy; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints the following individuals to the Ramsey County Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee, for terms beginning with the date of appointment and ending August 30, 2010.

APPOINTEES

TERM EXPIRATIONS

District 1

Steven Bornus

August 30, 2010

4343 Rustic Place

Shoreview, MN 55126

District 2

Mary Ann Palmer

August 30, 2010

2479 Brenner Street

Roseville, MN 55113

(Continued)

District 3
Patricia Lammers August 30, 2010
321 Topping
St. Paul, MN 55117

District 4
Triesta M. Brown August 30, 2010
1491 Blair Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

District 5
James Miller August 30, 2010
707 Mount Curve Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55116

District 7
Dennis J. Larson August 30, 2010
1995 10th Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-039)

WHEREAS, In accordance with the County’s Open Appointment Process, a press release was distributed October 20, 2008, seeking applicants for one position on the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers due to term expiration; and

WHEREAS, Six applications have been received; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the appointment of Harley M. Ogata, 5633 Hugo Road, White Bear Township, MN, 55110, to the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, for a term beginning with the date of appointment and ending January 17, 2012.

PUBLIC WORKS – Amendment No. 1 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P Preliminary engineering & Final Design Services for Lake Links Trail

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-040)

WHEREAS, Mn/DOT Agreement 90483-P, between Mn/DOT and Ramsey County, provides for an amount of \$100,000 in Ramsey County funds to be used for preliminary engineering and final design on the Lake Links Trail project; and

WHEREAS, The agreement sets forth the terms and conditions and was approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on March 20, 2007, via Resolution 2007-127; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 1 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P has been drafted to extend the term of Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P from December 30, 2008 to July 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, All other terms of the original agreement remain in full force and effect; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves Amendment No. 1 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P between Mn/DOT and Ramsey County for preliminary engineering and final design on the Lake Links Trail project; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute said agreement on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The two (2) page Amendment No. 1 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P is made part of this resolution by reference and will be kept on file with the Chief Clerk.

PUBLIC WORKS – Variance to Turnback Funding Eligibility

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-041)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has assumed jurisdiction of several Minnesota State Trunk Highways, including Highway 96, Highway 49, and University Avenue to ensure these important roadways are improved, maintained, and operated at a level commensurate with their importance to the region; and

WHEREAS, Under State jurisdiction, investment in these roadways was regularly deferred or omitted as Mn/DOT focused limited funds on the interstate system; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rules, State Aid Operations Chapter 8820.2900 provides funding assistance from the County State Aid Highway Turnback account for improvements and major maintenance on these roadways, limited to a period of 15 years beyond the date of jurisdiction transfer; and

WHEREAS, While Ramsey County actively worked to identify and plan for necessary improvements, several regional factors along funding limitations in the turnback account preclude implementation within the 15-year window; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County acknowledges that funds held in the County Turnback Account for specific projects may be released from those projects, reallocated and spent on other Ramsey County projects eligible for the funds until all the released funds are expended; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County acknowledges that once the funds currently held in the County Turnback Account are expended that all subsequent Ramsey County projects eligible for these funds will rely on new revenue to the County Turnback Account if appropriated by future state legislatures; Now, Therefore, Be It

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approve a resolution for submission to the State Aid Variance Committee requesting the current 15-year eligibility period to receive County State Aid Highway Turnback funds for reconstruction and major maintenance be extended to a period of 25 years for the following Roadway Segments:

- a. Highway 96 (CSAH 96) from Old Highway 8 in New Brighton to Trunk Highway 61 in White Bear Lake;
- b. Highway 49 (CSAH 49) from University Avenue in St. Paul to County Road J in Shoreview/North Oaks; and
- c. University Avenue CSAH from Robert Street in St. Paul to the west boundary of Ramsey County.

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby indemnifies, saves and holds harmless the State of Minnesota and its agents and employees, of and from claims, demands, actions, or causes of action arising out of or by reason of the granting of the variance; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, Ramsey County further agrees to defend at its sole cost and expense any action or proceeding commenced for the purpose of asserting any claim arising as a result of the granting of this variance.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Developmental Disability Services – Residential and Respite

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-042)

WHEREAS, On September 17, 2008, the Community Human Services Department issued a Request for Proposals seeking agencies to provide Supported Living Services (SLS), In Home, In Home Respite and Out-of-Home Respite services that are customized for persons with significant behavioral support needs, including persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

WHEREAS, The goal of this RFP is to prevent or reduce aggressive and destructive behaviors and crisis and will be funded under the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Waiver; and

WHEREAS, Two review committees, comprised of internal staff, a parent and representatives from other counties, convened to review proposals and make recommendations. The first panel reviewed proposals specific to SLS and In Home Respite. The second was specific to Out-of-Home Respite and included staff from Ramsey and other metro counties collaborating on a metro-wide out-of-home respite project; and

WHEREAS, All existing service providers under contract will continue to provide these services. These additional providers will increase consumer choice and respond to additional demand; and

WHEREAS, These services are paid for exclusively through Medical Assistance waiver programs; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Under previously delegated authority, the Director of Human Services will execute any approved contracts; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the recommended vendors:

- Dependable Home Health Care Inc., 2345 Rice Street #240 Roseville, MN 55113
- Progressive Individual Resources, 220 South Robert Street, Suite 200 St. Paul, MN 55107
- Boston Health Care Systems, Inc., 865 Old Hudson Road St. Paul, MN 55119
- Fraser, 2400 West 64th Street Minneapolis, MN 55423
- ACR Homes, Inc., 2437 Rice Street Roseville, MN 55113
- Orion Corporation of Minnesota, 366 Selby Ave, Suite 201 St. Paul, MN 55102
- Dungarvin Minnesota, LLC 1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Suite 100 Mendota Heights, MN 55120
- Life By Design, 7866 University Ave NE Fridley, MN 55432
- REM Ramsey, Inc., 6600 France Avenue South, Suite 500 Edina, MN 55435
- Metro Social Services, Inc., 345 University Ave Suite A St. Paul, MN 55103
- A Chance to Grow, 1800 2nd Street NE Minneapolis, MN 55418
- Olu's Home Inc., 4013 Park Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55407

to provide residential services and in-home respite for individuals with developmental disabilities at Medical Assistance payment rates through December 31, 2009; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves the recommended vendors:

- Life By Design, 7866 University Ave NE Fridley, MN 55432
- Metro Social Services, Inc., 345 University Ave Suite A St. Paul, MN 55103
- Fraser, 2400 West 64th Street Minneapolis, MN 55423
- ACR Homes, Inc., 2437 Rice Street Roseville, MN 55113

to provide out-of-home respite services for individuals with developmental disabilities at Medical Assistance payment rates through December 31, 2009.

PUBLIC WORKS – Construction Status Report for the period October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-043)

WHEREAS, County Board Resolution 91-061 requires the Public Works Department to submit periodic reports on the financial status of each project and any modifications that have been authorized within the limits set by County Board Resolution 2001-93; and

WHEREAS, The contract modifications include items such as cost quantity changes, change orders, and supplemental agreements; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the Construction Status Report for the period of October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

(Continued)

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Board and Lodge Services for Adult Men with Chemical Dependency or Co-occurring Chemical Dependency and Mental Illness

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the draft resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Commissioner Rettman said she would not support this agreement, and would move to deny it if she could get a second on that motion. The property is located in her area. She pointed out a correction to line 24 of the draft Resolution to state the District 6 Planning Council, not District 5, but that is not why she pulled the item for discussion.

Commissioner Rettman said Transition Homes was originally scheduled to locate in the Merriam Park area. She showed a hand-drawn map for the location of the property. In that same area, Norhaven had been “decommissioned” because of over-concentration of both low-income, as well as service delivery issues. It was one of the highest concentrated census tract areas in all of Ramsey County. She referred to Jackson Village, which has 3, 4, and 5-bedroom units for families and chemical-dependency ex-offenders, is in the vicinity of this property. The distance between Larpenteur and Arlington is one-half mile, and to her that is a concentration. McDonough Homes, east of Jackson Street, are also in that area. Sister Kathleen Spencer with the Carondelet nuns work with MORE at Wheelock Parkway and Jackson Street, providing language classes, furniture, etc., to people residing at McDonough Homes.

Commissioner Rettman said this property has gone through several uses, almost to the point where it would not be available for special condition use permits. Property somewhere else in Ramsey County was found not to be a suitable location for this service, and now this location has become the suitable place. To her, this is starting to be over-concentration of facilities in a quarter-mile area of already high intensity and density. Over-concentration has been raised at other times on services.

Commissioner Rettman said that McDonough Homes houses a tremendous amount of people struggling to survive and thrive in this economy. This is not the appropriate place for this new facility, and she hoped another location would be sought. District Council 6 had a meeting on this regarding land use. She is talking about a bigger issue called concentration of services in an already over-concentrated lower-income area that is intense with needs.

Commissioner Ortega asked Commissioner Rettman if she had spoken with Community Human Services (CHS) prior to this meeting.

Commissioner Rettman responded affirmatively. Monty Martin, Director, CHS, had sent her an email about the agenda item. The CHS Department went through the normal process, and this appeared before the District Council. The District Council was asked about this on land use; she is talking about the bigger things in terms of concentration in the County. She had shared her concerns with Mr. Martin as well as with Dave Haley, CHS; this property had gone from an intermediate care facility to a nursing home, and chemical dependency facility.

Commissioner Ortega said the issue of concentration has been a concern of the County Board for many years.

Mr. Haley said the Department looked at the concentration issue, and it is always a balancing act. They looked in the context of the facilities with which the County contracts. Commissioner Rettman is raising an additional vision in terms of all the other facilities that are there that Ramsey County doesn't have contractual relationships with. In looking at this, and in talking with the provider, the Department indicated in lieu of the County Board policy and some of the issues the Department has looked at, that it is not as concentrated as some other areas in the City, and if they wanted to go forward, the Department would be okay with that from a Department standpoint. Commissioner

(Continued)

Rettman has talked about other facilities, programs and services that are in that area that are wider than what the Human Services Department contracts with.

Commissioner Rettman said Ramsey County has a relationship with Jackson Village. Mr. Haley responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Rettman said Ramsey County had a contract with Norhaven, which was decertified because of the over-concentration. None of the over-concentration has been eliminated since that time.

Commissioner Ortega asked where the vendor is moving from.

Mr. Haley said this is a new program. Transition Homes operates a current facility, but this would be additional beds, not a transfer from an existing place. It is a new program, not a new vendor; an expansion of their services.

Commissioner Ortega asked what the alternatives were for this program. How did Ramsey County try to motivate/steer?

Mr. Haley said the Department did not try to steer in this instance. They originally were looking at a place in the Merriam Park area; for a variety of reasons that did not work out for them – with the landlord in terms of a purchase -- they saw the building not as suitable as some other locations for this service, etc. When this location became available due to relocation of the current provider from this facility to another facility, that building opened up. It was a set of circumstances that came together.

Commissioner McDonough said the documentation states that the original was for 10 new beds, but has increased it to 10 additional beds with closure of another facility. So there is a facility that is closing somewhere and moving the 10 beds.

Mr. Haley said the Group Residential Housing (GRH) program is a statewide program. The 10 beds that closed were likely beds that closed in another part of the State, so those beds became available in terms of what Ramsey County could use. Due to circumstances, the building is large enough to reasonably accommodate 20 individuals. The availability of the additional beds and the size of the facility made it an easy and interesting match.

Commissioner McDonough said the documentation states “the Human Services Department proposes to utilize an additional 10 beds from the closure of another GRH program”.

Mr. Haley said it wouldn't have been this provider; it might have happened geographically in another part of the State.

Commissioner McDonough said the documentation indicates that the District 6 Community Council gave approval, not only to the original 10 beds, but to the additional 10 beds. District Council 6, like District 5, has similar positions to what Commissioner Rettman is talking about and what he has advocated for his community on the concentration issue. What occurred at the District Council 6 meeting when they approved this?

Commissioner Rettman said she was unable to attend the District Council 6 meeting, but spoke with the Community Organizer. This is a land-use issue. Because the special condition use permit was scheduled to expire, but had not, is this a more similar use to the previous usages? In the legislative code of the City, if the property lays fallow for a duration of time, then the original zoning goes back. Because there was a special condition use permit, they were advised that because this is more similar to, they couldn't prevail on being against it because it would go forward anyway. This building needs a lot of work, and in her opinion, right now it is not fit for occupancy. There was some discussion on the dual diagnosis issue, as well as a no tolerance policy that would be initiated except in the dual diagnosis situation; failures are frequent and would be done on a case-by-case basis, leaving people wondering if this is a boarding care place. The land use was all District 6 was asked to respond on.

(Continued)

Commissioner McDonough said he typically gives a lot of weight to whether a District Council wants to weigh-in because of the residents and community that would have an indication for what is going on, but he would support Commissioner Rettman on this. This issue is also important to his District. He is highly supportive of this program. These programs are needed in our community, but the reality is that they come to the County one at a time, building up. To Mr. Haley's point that we look at these, we look at them just where we have contracts, but we need to look broader than that. There is a lot of service being provided in all the Commissioner districts. Looking at the data maps that come out showing these services, there are areas basically 'red'. That happens over time, one at a time. The County has to start pushing back to these organizations that they have to broaden their vision about where these things are placed and work harder in recognizing that the concentration of these, in his opinion, makes it more difficult to meet the goals and needs of the people that need these services. When they open their door every day, all they see is this concentration of people in need of service, the concentration of poverty; it is hard to have a vision of a bright future for yourself when that is all you see. We need to work harder at this and send a signal to the groups looking to site this, and to our own people, that it is critical to take in the broader picture of what else is going on in that community, not necessarily whether or not we have a contract.

Commissioner Reinhardt said in her District, specifically, Maplewood, there are portions that are red. Ramsey County is a fully developed County. No matter where you go, this will be in somebody's district, somebody's neighborhood. She has been a vocal advocate of making sure we scatter as much as possible. Staff has done a good job of trying to encourage that because they can't say a vendor could not go 'here', but show what is already in the area and other things to try to spread it out to the extent possible. She doesn't buy the fact that a district council didn't understand what was before them, or that the community organizer had more knowledge or questions than this district council did. The district councils in St. Paul have never been shy about bringing up issues, whether it was on their plate or not. This has gone through the full process, gotten their approval. She did not believe a district council would vote for something just because they thought they couldn't stop it; that is not the culture of district councils. If this goes down, fine, but it doesn't matter where you are at in the County. If you go through this process and get the approval of the district council or other approvals, this seems to be a good fit that was approved by that district council. There wasn't anything that came back from the District Council with questions or concerns. If they had questions or concerns, they should have brought them here. They are aware this is before the Board today but there is no one here to say the vote they took was inaccurate or that they felt pressured in any way. If they cared, they would have at least let the other Commissioners know. She is not discounting discussions people may have had but she knows what is before her is approval by the District Council where this is going to be located.

Commissioner Bennett asked who owns the building; is it the people going into the building. Mr. Haley said he was not sure who owns the building.

Commissioner Bennett asked how long does this RFP (Request for Proposal) go. Mr. Haley said this is an open-ended RFP in terms of the GRH program with the base rate. The number of beds is unlimited across the state. Folks who feel they can operate a program on the base-rate GRH, can submit a proposal at any time to the Department.

Commissioner Bennett asked Commissioner Rettman if anyone else is opposing this.

Commissioner Rettman said the only place this went was to the District 6 Planning Council.

Commissioner Bennett agreed that the area is over-populated, but the area has to be looked at in its entirety.

Commissioner Rettman clarified that what comes to the District Council is the special condition use permit on this property. They raised other questions but did not discuss the concentration issue. It was not that they were not informed, but the discussion had been in regard to the land use issue.

(Continued)

Commissioner Bennett asked if any of the neighbors had complained.

Commissioner Rettman said she has heard of some concerns. Nothing has been in writing. The District Council wrote a letter in support of approving the special condition use permit.

Commissioner Bennett said it would be hard to vote against something when there is no written opposition to this.

Chair Parker said clarification of the County Board's role is needed in this. The County Board is approving the contract for services, not specifically the location. Some years ago, the County Board had scatter-gram maps available and the discussion was held about the County's responsibility. She was not sure the County could vote against something specifically because of its location.

Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office, said he did not remember the conclusion of the opinion but recalled a report on it. He thought the County could not specify locations, but he would have to look at that.

Chair Parker thought this could be laid over to look at the report, and possibly update the scatter-grams.

Commissioner Reinhardt recalled one of the issues regarding locations – if it was a home that served four-six.

Mr. Haley said the number is five or less.

Commissioner Reinhardt said five or less, and then you could specify the location.

Chair Parker said Norhaven served a lot more people so the over-concentration was in that particular residence, not the neighborhood.

Mr. Haley said the distance requirements are if it is six or more folks, there is a 1320 foot requirement that a program of that size has to be that far separate from a similar program of that size. When getting to five or less, they could be right next door to each other. That is the issue that the land use policy that the City deals with. The Department does the contract work, not necessarily commenting on the location, but by saying yes or no to the contract, it is related to dealing with the location because it is in the contracts.

Chair Parker said they could not just move it arbitrarily without getting permission from the County. Mr. Haley responded affirmatively. They can't just move it because the contract the County enters into is site specific.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she did not believe this needs to be laid over because it is site specific, but could be laid over for a different reason. With a written letter of support from the District Council in moving forward, she is ready to vote on this today.

Commissioner Ortega said this could be laid over due to the fact that Commissioner Carter is absent today and this is about a policy issue.

Chair Parker asked if there is a time constraint for this agreement. Mr. Haley responded a layover would be fine in terms of time; there is no time constraint.

Commissioner Reinhardt moved for a layover, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

Chair Parker asked that Mr. Lookingbill locate the report to have it come to the Board when this returns to the County Board.

Mr. Lookingbill recalled that Gary Davis, Assistant County Attorney, had prepared that report.

SHERIFF/PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – Sale of Property located at 2232 Searle St., Maplewood, acquired by Ramsey County through drug forfeiture proceeding

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Rettman.

(Continued)

Commissioner Rettman asked how much the cleanup cost the Sheriff and Property Management Departments.

Jolly Mangine, Director, Property Management, said the closing cost would be approximately \$7,000; the cost to get the building in shape was approximately \$4,500.

Commissioner Rettman requested a friendly amendment to the draft Resolution: on line 53-- “costs incurred by the Sheriff’s Department ~~or~~ and Property Management”; and line 54 -- “sale be paid to the appropriate departments from the proceeds of the sale”.

Commissioner Bennett asked what the amount of reimbursement was in total. Mr. Mangine responded it would be about \$11,500; net proceeds would be about \$80,500.

Commissioner Bennett asked if there would be any liability. Mr. Mangine responded negatively.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-044)

WHEREAS, On August 5, 2008, per Resolution 2008-250, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorized the Sheriff’s Department, working in conjunction with the County Attorney’s Office and the Department of Property Management, to take the necessary steps to sell the property located at 2232 Searle Street in the City of Maplewood (the Property). This Property was seized by the Sheriff’s Department through drug forfeiture proceedings for the manufacture of methamphetamine production at the Property; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Taking Sealed Bids was published in the official newspaper of the County for three consecutive weeks beginning on October 21, 2008 and once in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on October 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Two bids were received, however they were both deemed unacceptable and therefore rejected; and

WHEREAS, On December 15, 2008, a real estate agent was hired to list and sell the Property; and

WHEREAS, An offer in the amount of \$92,000 was received and verbally accepted subject to approval by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, The Buyer was provided notice of the disclosure requirements of Minn. Stat. section 152.0275, subd. 2(m) regarding methamphetamine production at the Property; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff Department and the Department of Property Management are requesting the Ramsey County Board’s approval of the sale and appropriate authorities to complete the sale of the property; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes and approves the sale of the property located at 2232 Searle Street, Maplewood, Minnesota (the Property) for \$92,000 to Abdel R. Aziz (Buyer); and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Director of Property Management to execute and deliver the purchase agreement on behalf of the County, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute and deliver to Buyer a Quit Claim deed in the form attached hereto, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager, or her designee, to execute and deliver on its behalf all other documents required by or deemed necessary to carry out the interest and purposes of the sale of the Property, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes and approve that all costs, taxes, charges or fees that Ramsey County is required to pay at closing may be paid from the proceeds of the sale of the Property at closing; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby directs that costs incurred by the Sheriff's Department and Property Management to prepare the Property for sale be paid to the appropriate departments from the proceeds of the sale of the Property and that the remaining balance of the proceeds be distributed in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. section 609.5315.

COUNTY MANAGER – Appointment of Veterans Service Officer

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, said she is pleased to announce the appointment of Maria Wetherall to the position of Ramsey County Veterans Service Officer. There were many extremely qualified candidates for this position, and there was a rigorous interview panel. Ms. Wetherall served in the Navy from 1975-1981; she has a BA in Theology from the College of St. Catherine; she is bi-lingual in Spanish; has had 20 years of diverse human services experience, including 15 years providing leadership to staff who determine eligibility for programs. Staff are excited about Ms. Wetherall's focus on customer service, program design, and the use of technology to improve the business process flow. She has done a lot of work on service delivery systems to maximize available resources, but to improve the outcomes for the customers, in this case veterans.

Ms. Wetherall thanked the County Board for the opportunity to serve veterans in Ramsey County. She looks forward to working with the Veterans Service Officers to build on the existing successes in the office and finding ways to improve service models to meet the needs of veterans in the future.

Chair Parker welcomed Ms. Wetherall to Ramsey County.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-045)

WHEREAS, The position of Ramsey County Veterans Service Officer was vacated by the retirement of Steven Lindstrom; and

WHEREAS, The Human Resources Department initiated an open application and screening process as required by Minnesota Statute 383A.286 for positions in the Ramsey County unclassified service; and

WHEREAS, Such open application and screening process is completed; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The Interim County Manager offered the position to Maria Wetherall and Ms. Wetherall accepted the position, effective February 23, 2009, at an annual starting salary of \$74,258.94; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the appointment of Maria Wetherall to the position of Ramsey County Veterans Service Officer for a term of four years, with a probationary period of 12 months, as provided in Minnesota Statute 197.60, effective February 23, 2009.

COUNTY ATTORNEY – Evaluation of the Runaway Intervention Project (RIP)

Susan Gaertner, County Attorney, introduced Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc, who was present to report on her evaluation of the Runaway Intervention Project (RIP). As a reminder of how that project started, in recent years, we have seen an increase in runaway children in our communities, particularly among Hmong girls. In response to this trend, work was done with the Midwest Children's Resource Center (MCRC) and the St. Paul Public Schools to bring together a group of professionals and concerned citizens to address this problem. This resulted in the creation of the RIP. The RIP is the collaborative effort involving the MCRC, Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County, the Hmong American Partnership, St. Paul Public Schools, law enforcement, and the County Attorney's Office. Since its inception in January 2006, this project has had a huge positive effect on the lives of many young girls. Dr. Saewyc brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her role as evaluator of the RIP. She has been involved as an evaluator from the very beginning. Dr. Saewyc is Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia, and has done extensive research on health issues of youth, particularly among vulnerable populations of young people.

Dr. Saewyc's report focuses on the first two years of the RIP. She has been involved in the program since its inception. The RIP was designed to address the needs of very young runaways, aged 15 and younger; those who have been sexually abused or exploited. The original funding was to provide services primarily to young Hmong girls, because of the way the funding was awarded. However, sexually exploited young runaways belong to every ethnic group. Within the first year, they were able to secure changes in the funding to allow the service to be expanded to girls of any ethnic group.

The program's aims were ambitious; in setting up the evaluation she was cognizant about the specific aims of the group. First, to reduce the trauma from sexual exploitation and sexual assault, the majority of these young girls have high levels of distress; two-thirds of them have been suicidal within the past year; about two-thirds have cutting behaviors; coping; using substances, etc. It is also designed to reduce some risk behaviors that put them in these circumstances such as repeat running away, truancy from school, substance use and the risky sexual behaviors and other kinds of outcomes that are follow-up from sexual abuse and assault.

It is also designed to increase the health behaviors and self-esteem of the young girls, whether that is improving their healthy sexual behaviors, abstaining from sexual behavior, improving their emotional regulation, even improving their exercise and physical activity. It is also designed to help connect them with life skills – opportunities to learn how to use the library, to get involved in an after-school employment program, summer camps, etc.

Finally, it is designed to do all of those things through re-connecting them with family, school and other caring adults – those protective factors that are so important in healthy development of adolescents.

How is this done? First there is a referral and screen process. Referrals can come from police, schools, social services, families, the courts, or community agencies, and the screening is done by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office in partnership with MCRC. This screening includes the opportunity

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for the teens to have a voluntary comprehensive assessment and exam at MCRC to determine if they have encountered sexual assault or abuse and can be referred to the types of services that can be of assistance to them.

For those runaways who have been screened and who are not yet abused or have just run away sporadically, they are recruited into a special ten week program run by Sexual Offense Services that provides sessions on healthy relationships, the dangers of running away, goal setting, and a variety of things that help young girls develop normally. They also receive truancy intervention services through the Ramsey County Truancy Intervention Project (TIP) if that is necessary. However, for those girls who have been runaways and have either been sexually abused or sexually exploited and have other health issues. There is a series of more intensive services provided using a strength-based approach. Those services include home visits and school visits by the advanced practice nurses with MCRC. Those are weekly at the beginning and then move to monthly or as needed. The nurses also provide case management, family education, and a weekly therapeutic group by therapists at MCRC that is voluntary. Additionally, they provide truancy intervention, and school attendance is monitored by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office. Interventions with the juvenile justice system or TIP are provided as needed. For Hmong girls who are part of this program there are additional services with the Hmong American Partnership (HAP), including circles and family support.

From the beginning of this evaluation, they have had measures to allow comparison of the outcomes for these girls to girls their same age across the State of Minnesota. The Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) includes girls in grade 9 and 6. The MSS asks a variety of health and risk-related questions and includes questions about things such as self-esteem, family connectedness, school connectedness, and a variety of other things that this program was designed to have an impact on. As a result, the girls in the RIP who are receiving the intensive services are evaluated at both their entry into the program and at 3, 6 and 12 months, using a modified version of the MSS. This gives us an opportunity to compare them over time, and to compare them to the girls in the general population who have been abused as well as girls who have not been abused.

Kids who have some resources already on board, such as family support or are already connected to school, seem to do better. Those kids who have complex multiple problems and who have the worst distress are hard to engage and often even hard to find. In general those programs don't always do as well for them. One question they were interested in is 'who does better in this program' – 'who is it designed to take care of and fit best'?

Whether it is risk behaviors or marijuana use or health behaviors such as condom use, the girls in the RIP at entry, show the highest levels of risk exposures and the lowest levels of the health behaviors. Three-quarters of the RIP girls at entry to the program have used marijuana in the past month, which compares to only 28% of the girls who have been abused in the general population, and 9% for girls who have never been abused. Similarly, suicide attempts – more than one-half have attempted suicide in the past year compared to about 7% in the general population. At the end of 12-months on RIP, their suicide attempts are down to zero and their marijuana use in the past month looks like those girls who have never been abused. Their condom use at last intercourse, among those who are sexually active, they are doing even better than the girls who have never been abused.

Chair Parker asked Dr. Saewyc to provide Commissioners with a copy of the power point slides.

Dr, Saewyc said that at entry into the program, the RIP girls have the lowest connection to their family, the lowest self esteem and the highest levels of emotional distress, much like girls in the general population who have been sexually abused. However, at 12 months, their family connectedness is much closer to that of girls who have never been abused. They also have assessments of parents and they also report much better relationships with their daughters. Their self

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esteem is actually higher than that of girls who have never been abused, and their emotional distress is lower than that of girls who have never been abused.

What about who does better? They calculated the amount of their improvement from their baseline to 6 months to 12 months for each of the girls, and then looked at different populations within the girls to see if it would seem reasonable that girls who start older would probably have more cognitive capacity to grow and thrive within the program. It is possible that different ethnic groups experience the program differently and may receive better services. It is also possible that girls who have more severe types of abuse – those who have been prostituted as opposed to those who have been sexually assaulted by multiple people would perhaps do worse in the program. None of those things predict the level of improvement. Instead, when compared to their baseline – how distressed they were, how connected or not they were at baseline – what they found is that those girls who had the lowest levels of connection, the lowest self esteem, the highest levels of distress – actually improved the most. This intervention reaches the kids who in general we have a hard time providing services to and seeing any type of impact.

In summary, based on her evaluation of the girls who received those intensive services in the first two years of the program, the RIP is a highly effective method of care for an extremely vulnerable population of teens, sexually abused young runaways. The exciting part is that approach improved the protective factors in the protective factors in their lives, reconnecting them to healthier relationships with families, school, and other caring adults. Those are the factors needed for healthy development. It improved those as it was intended to do and in doing so, reduced risk behaviors in a number of areas. Seldom has she seen the size of effect that this program has provided to these young women. Better still, the recovery is such that at 12 months, they do not look different from non-abused girls in the general population in the State of Minnesota. This intervention appears to help restore healthy developmental trajectories to a population that generally has great difficulty because of their experiences. This offers a hope to a number of people who are providing interventions for this troubled population.

Commissioner Ortega said there were 350 referrals to this program in its first two years, and 221 were accepted. Why were the other 129 not accepted to the program? What happened to them?

Dr. Saewyc said the screening process determines eligibility – part of it is whether they live in Ramsey County, have they been a runaway, and do they have the risk behaviors that make them eligible for the program, such as substance abuse, gang involvement, sexual exploitation or abuse.

Commissioner Ortega asked on what basis they were referred.

Dr. Saewyc said some were referred because they were runaways, others may have been referred through the schools because they were truant and it was thought they might have other criteria. The County Attorney's Office does the screening to determine their eligibility for the RIP or the modified services. If they meet the criteria and are not older than 15 they are eligible for this program.

Commissioner Ortega wants to know if they could be helped somewhere else.

Dr. Saewyc said it is her understanding that the screening is predominately making sure that the people who are referred are actually runaways. Sometimes the referrals came through the TIP or the school program where they were not aware of the criteria of being both repeat runaways and either having substance abuse or other factors. Most adolescents do not disclose things like substance abuse or sexual abuse until they have had an opportunity to answer those questions in a private and confidential place. Some of the young people who would theoretically be eligible but did not receive services did not do so because through the judicial system, they may have been placed outside Ramsey County in residential treatment centers. Some of them ended up in the Juvenile Detention Center and were not able to receive the services.

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Commissioner Ortega asked if any data was collected to see what happened to the 129 who were not accepted into the RIP. For example, did they end up in the correctional system, and if so, how deep into the system were they?

Susan Gaertner, County Attorney, said there were a variety of next steps available to those who were not accepted into the program. If they live in Ramsey County but don't otherwise qualify, many could be offered the services of the TIP. There would also be community-based referrals, community human services based referrals, etc. There is no data outlining the 129 individuals and what happened next, unless they are in TIP.

Commissioner McDonough said his understanding is that much of the sexual abuse begins at home; the success here seems to be re-establishing that connectivity with family. How is that dealt with?

Dr. Saewyc said that what they see with this young group of runaways is that there is a small number who experience sexual abuse in the home, but the running away of these girls is generally not to escape an intolerable family situation. Often time, it is a level of thoughtlessness of "going out to play". What happens is that they become easy prey for some gang groups that will sexually assault them. Among those who have sexual abuse that has happened in the home are always immediately referred to children's protective services (CPS) which provides direct services for them. This program is designed for those for whom the abuse has not happened in the home because there are services available for girls who have experienced that kind of circumstance. There is a small number where there was previous sexual abuse in the home and then reuniting them with family is not generally with the family where the abuse took place, but with other family members.

Commissioner McDonough asked about the term of the grant.

Dr. Saewyc said the initial term was two years, and they received an additional two years of funding. It is currently in the fourth year. County Attorney Gaertner said funding will end at the end of 2009. Funding is from a State grant through the Office of Justice Programs. The bulk of that money is for MCRC to provide the direct services. The County Attorney's Office receives a small portion to do the administrative and referral processes.

Commissioner McDonough asked if the County Attorney is looking at ways to continue this program because results seem extremely favorable.

Dr. Saewyc said that is part of why they are preparing materials from the first two years of the program because it is her understanding that the consortium of agencies involved in this partnership are actively seeking additional funding and ways to create a sustainable program.

County Attorney Gaertner said from the perspective of her office, they are fairly pessimistic about receiving ongoing funds.

Commissioner Reinhardt said it is important to note that other than the criteria about being a Ramsey County resident, anyone referred did receive services – it is just that they did not receive the intensive services of the RIP. Fitting the service to the circumstance will end up with the best outcomes. It would be interesting to know how many went into the TIP or other areas so the Commissioners know what they were referred to.

County Attorney Gaertner said the data available will be provided to Commissioners.

Commissioner Reinhardt said tailoring of services is very important. She believes there are legislators who are very interested in the funding of front end services. The problem is the funding. She hoped that the partners, together, can get funding to make the project sustaining. The research she did previously shows that the cost of this is minimal compared to how much would be saved. The primary issue is that most of those savings take place at the state level.

County Attorney Gaertner said pregnancies are avoided by use of this program, which saves an incredible amount of money.

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Dr. Saewyc said some of her previous research has linked sexual abuse experiences and running away and street involvement to very high rates of pregnancy among teenagers at the rate of 25-50%. What has been found with this program is that over the course of those first two years there was about 5% -- 6 pregnancies total. Some of those were after they have left the program. The rate of pregnancy involvement among the girls in this program is actually as low as in the general population. She said part of the referral process is that they are not referred to the County Attorney's Office but rather to the MCRC which is not limited to Ramsey County. Other agencies would like their young girls to be part of this successful program.

Chair Parker asked for the amount of the ongoing costs to continue the program.

Kate Richtman, County Attorney's Office, said the original grant amount was just under \$200,000, which was for a two-year period. That amount was slightly less in the second round of grant awards. The MCRC, and in particular the nurse practitioner who has been the lead person on the team, has been extremely active in seeking matching funding for the services they have been providing. The intensive services of an advanced nurse practitioner doing home visits and the connections to these kids through the weekly groups have been more expensive than we could have paid for. She doesn't know how much money MCRC has also received to support the program.

Chair Parker asked if Ramsey County's Public Health Department has been involved.

Ms. Richtman responded affirmatively, and said that Rob Fulton, Director, Public Health, has been extremely supportive of this program. Emily Brennan, Director, Sexual Offense Services, has been a leader of this initiative.

Chair Parker thanked Dr. Saewyc and others for contributing to this update.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said there are ongoing hearings from the departments. The major news was the Governor's State of the State address, in which he suggested that there will be significant cuts to local government, in addition to the un-allotted cuts that have already been done. The area of human services will likely take significant cuts; it has been heard that it will be in the neighborhood of 27%. The Governor indicated there would be some mandate relief but it would have to be by the election of the various Boards that would have to take affirmative action on the individual mandates. There would be some consolidation of services; the Governor suggested 15 service districts around the state, which would not consolidate counties. There are 87 counties and some things are done 87 different ways. The Governor would like to see more consolidation of services; he suggested 15 service districts within the 87 counties.

Commissioner Bennett said the State has several regions within various programs; all the regions are different.

Commissioner Ortega asked for a clarification of what 'taking affirmative action on mandates' means.

Mr. Riley said the Governor first asked us to remove the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) language in the previous years' tax bill. It is giving conflicting messages that he doesn't like the language in there but he will give us the freedom on these mandates and require an affirmative vote. The Governor will come out with his budget next Tuesday.

Commissioner Ortega said we need to move ahead cautiously.

Mr. Riley said advocates would descend upon the counties not to cut various programs; the legislature could wash their hands and tell folks to go to the counties.

Commissioner Rettman asked what an affirmative vote means.

Mr. Riley said the Governor is proposing that any mandate is fair game as long as the county board is willing to take a vote that they are going to pay for it.

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Commissioner Rettman said the legislature gets bypassed because most of the mandates have been created by the Governor and legislature.

Commissioner Reinhardt said by definition, that makes it not a mandate. This ends up with a mixture from county to county. The mandates were put in place for a reason. The County can make the argument on some of the reporting, for example in solid waste management. Some costs could be saved by reporting once a year instead of every six months. Rather than saying Ramsey County would not do that anymore, to say we would change how we would do it, because it is not a mandate then. The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) is talking about systemic change on how services are delivered rather than a piecemeal approach, county by county. The concept is one of trying to do things more effectively and to allow some flexibility.

Commissioner McDonough said this conversation about the mandates and allowing counties to choose is not anything that AMC supports. There has been talk over the years at AMC about just supporting elimination of mandates, and except for very few people, no one agreed with that. Everybody in the State needs to be assured that they have sustained access to a consistent level of service. That needs to happen when providing new services at the local level. AMC wants the State to start focusing on the flexibility and the governance; to focus on the outcomes, and not so much how much you have to spend on a program in ensuring we are getting results for what they want us to do. This is at odds with AMC's position with the redesign proposal. As Commissioner Reinhardt pointed out, it is more of a systemic change in the relationship and partnership with the State and counties. No one wants to get back to the days when counties could say they would not provide mental health services or chemical dependency services in their county – that is not what AMC is proposing.

Mr. Riley said many times these mandates were put in place because certain counties weren't providing those services, and they wanted uniformity across the State.

Claudia Brewington, Intergovernmental Relations, said the Maintenance of Efforts (MOEs) is where a lot of the unevenness comes in. Those are generally passed when they pass legislation, setting the bar for spending to be maintained. For example in chemical dependency, the MOE is based on spending in 1986, so there is a wide variety of required MOE or what has to be spent in an area. The newest MOE is in mental health. Some counties are spending money when it is not needed in a particular area, where other counties easily meet their MOE. Those arbitrary kinds of decisions on saying you can't supplant or use the money putting out to supplant what is being spent already so a MOE was put in requiring counties to continue spending as they go forward. Those counties that were innovative or a little ahead of the curve in providing services get punished for it down the road. That is one of the arguments that is sometimes lost. We need to bring up to the surface the whole discussion of MOE and level it out so the availability of services is provided the same from one county to the next, which was the original aim.

Commissioner Ortega said even if the vote was affirmative, he did not see how mandates would go away. In the area of Corrections, if the County decided not to house folks in our jails for the last six months, how does that go away? He did not know how the State would allow that – somebody has to pick up that bill.

Chair Parker said the discussion has to be more about who will pay for it, rather than the mandate.

Commissioner Rettman said if they are not, then they need to make the choice.

Ms. Brewington said there is this illusion of choice. As was pointed out, it is productive for counties to provide services to their communities – it is not just the State levying that mandate on counties; it is something we want to continue paying for, but the will to provide the funding at the State level is difficult to do sometimes, and it becomes funding from property taxes.

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Mr. Riley said another portion of the Governor's State of the State address was tax relief for businesses. The Governor wants to cut the overall corporate tax rate over the next six years, and to give some business tax incentives for creation of jobs, which further exacerbates this current budget hole. House and Senate leaders have indicated it probably adds another billion dollars to the hole. The Governor also requested increased spending in K-12. This now appears to be a \$6.5 billion hole. Some areas are held out-of-bounds for tax cuts in the Governor's eyes so the devil will be in the details when he comes out with his budget on January 27.

Commissioner Bennett asked if Mr. Riley's reference was to the State's property tax that they levy on businesses that would be cut. Mr. Riley said the Governor didn't indicate that is what he would do.

Commissioner Bennett said when people think of property tax they think counties and cities. This is a property tax that the State levies on business. Mr. Riley said that is not what the Governor proposed.

Commissioner Bennett said it would be crucial to have that information.

Commissioner Ortega said he is getting a sense of dividing people. How much of an increase is the Governor proposing for education? Mr. Riley was not aware of an exact number, but thought it might be a 2% increase, but that is substantial.

Chair Parker said she thought it was a per-student incentive if they meet their goals so there is a potential increase.

Commissioner Ortega said it could be a decrease, so the division is even further. There is a 27% decrease in health and human services, with a potential increase in education. This could be chaotic at the legislature with them not working together as was done in the past in how to move forward. This is definitely about big time losers and winners.

Mr. Riley said it was predicated on schools increasing the Q Comp program so there were strings attached.

Mr. Riley said Ramsey County Department Heads will meet with Congresswoman McCollum on January 30 in the morning, and the County Board will meet with Congresswoman McCollum over the lunch hour, to garner ideas and get direction to better help at the Federal level in some of these ideas.

Ms. Brewington said at the Legislature in the last week, there were a number of opportunities where different representatives from Ramsey County made presentations to committees. Commissioner Reinhardt presented on ACE to the Public Safety Policy Committee, where they are looking at re-entry, prevention, and early intervention programs. Patricia Brady, Director, Workforce Solutions, and two of her staff presented to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee on unemployment and access to care, particularly the high cost of Cobra, and exploring creative ideas on what can be done to help those individuals and their families continue to have their insurance after they are unemployed.

Chair Parker said she had listened to the Governor's State of the State address. This is major for what would happen to Ramsey County's budget, and this is the time to look at all alternatives for service delivery. Counties have traditionally been opposed to State takeover of services because we like local control, but in some cases it might be a good thing. If we are looking at the regionalization, if the State is going to pay for some of these services, it might be better for all to consider that. She was not sure how to explore which services make sense, and which don't, which ones should be done on a regional basis with the counties paying – there are many variations and options to look at. The County needs to work closely with AMC in exploring some of these, but should not automatically think that these are all bad ideas; some could actually help us out.

Commissioner Ortega said it is not a matter of whether an idea is good or bad, it is about who is paying for it. It would be good to know that. But, the smokescreen and being set up as the "fall

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person”, is not consolidation or delivering better services, or being creative. It is about positioning oneself to see how to shift payment of the bills. He agreed that there are probably some services that should be run on a statewide system.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the Governor, in his State of the State address, talked about families. He pled with the Legislature not to raise taxes for families. The County message to the Governor is not to raise their taxes by simply moving it down to property taxes. The State has a revenue problem. Even if we wanted to, which we don't – we didn't even go up to the levy limit in Ramsey County and are frugal as far as being fiscally restrained and doing the best we can – we would not be able to get the State out of this quagmire. They need to take some responsibility. As counties, we want to partner, but if the Governor passes the buck to counties, then it is not being truthful about what is happening. We want to be partners, but the State needs to be there with us – send us the money, don't pass the problem onto the County.

Commissioner Bennett asked what the County gets in State aid that has no strings attached.

Commissioner McDonough said County Program Aid.

Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, said the only thing with no strings would be the County Program Aid. The string there is that it is intended to reduce the property tax burden. In 2009, it is budgeted to be \$18 million, before the un-allotment. The un-allotment was for 2008, so we don't know yet what the State will do in 2009.

Commissioner Bennett pointed out that cities are different from counties, with very few mandates. They get city aid. The County has a mandated program either Federal or State of about 80%. The County delivers the human services, health and other services for the State. The State has the major problem on shortage of funds. The County could probably manage its own budget if still getting paid for what services we are delivering, but we will not get paid, and that is what is going to force the County. If the County doesn't get paid for what we are delivering, that is where the cost is to the taxpayer. We are mandated to provide the services. If we don't get paid for providing those services, then it goes onto the property tax, and the County doesn't want that to happen. The County has some salary and health benefit and some other costs, most which are manageable. The County is doing the work for nothing.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported on the Rush Line Task Force meeting where it was unanimous to move forward with development of an RFP (Request for Proposal) for an express bus service that would likely begin in June 2009, and would go from Running Aces in Columbus Township in Anoka County, to Forest Lake, into White Bear Township, and then into St. Paul. Staff were directed to seek ongoing funding once the one-year demonstration project is complete, and to bring all the options back to the next meeting. The question about whether this would ever become self-sustaining was asked. The answer was that public transportation by its nature is not self-sustaining as to the economics, including roads -- nothing in the public transportation system is free.

Commissioner Bennett pointed out that the State Highway Patrol is paid out of the gas tax – a cost to taxpayers.

Commissioner Reinhardt said Met Council nicely explained how public transportation works. Also approved at the meeting was what had been submitted by Ramsey County to our Delegation at the State and Federal level as far as requests for funding for Rush Line. She and the other members of the Rush Line Corridor are very excited about this bus service.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Parker declared the meeting adjourned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was called to order at 11:30 a.m. with the following members present: Bennett, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, and Chair Parker – 6. Absent: Carter – 1. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager; Susan Gaertner, County Attorney; Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office; Sheriff Bob Fletcher; and David Metusalem, Deputy Ramsey County Sherriff.

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 5. Nays – Rettman – 1. (2009-046)

Re: Askelin v. Ramsey County

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners authorizes the Ramsey County Attorney to proceed with a settlement as discussed in this Executive Session.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board